Press release

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Stormy weather - more to come

04 July 2001

Release number 481

The heavy rain and thunderstorms that brought chaos to many western parts of Britain overnight could hit other areas of southern Britain in the next day or two, the Met Office warned today. The storms brewed yesterday afternoon in a hot and humid southwesterly airstream which had already lifted temperatures as high as 30°C in the last few days.

The first storms affected southwest Wales and north Wales yesterday afternoon. A second crop of storms developed more widely during the evening and night to affect southwest England, much of Wales and southwest Scotland.

Wales was worst affected with 67mm of rain falling in Cardiff overnight and the likelihood of higher totals in remote hilly parts of the country. Looking back in history there have been far wetter spells. On 11 November 1929, 211mm of rain fell in 24 hours in the Rhondda valley in south Wales, and on 12 July 1901 92mm of rain fell in just one hour in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Ewen McCallum, Head of Forecasting at the Met Office, said: "We're not out of the woods yet. Further thundery downpours are likely over the next few days. Southern England seems most at risk on Thursday but things will quieten down a bit over the weekend.

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